

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 195364
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O TGMARTIN

APPROVED BY: S/S- O TGMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 195364

NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM BEIRUT DTD 17 AUG 1977 DTG

O 171148Z AUG 77 QTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4018

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PSDC

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS

REF: STATE 192563

1. DELIVERED ORAL MESSAGE CONTAINED REFTEL TO FONMIN BOUTROS
THIS MORNING, AUGUST 17. HE INTRIGUED BY SECOND PARAGRAPH
AND FACT WE DID NOT MENTION USE OF UN FORCES. HE ASKED WHETHER
THIS MEANT THERE HAD BEEN CHANGE IN OUR POSITION.

2. I SAID WE HAD FROM BEGINNING FELT THAT IF LEBANESE FORCES
COULD DO THE JOB THAT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO USING UN FORCES.

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WE HAD TOLD SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS, HOWEVER, THAT WE WERE PRE-
PARED TO SUPPORT UN FORCE IDEA IF LEBANON PROPOSED IT. HE
WAS AWARE OF RESPONSES OF BOTH PARTIES.

3. BOUTROS SAID HE WISHED TO BE SURE HE UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY
WHAT ISRAELI POSITION WAS. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE
WERE TWO ELEMENTS TO IT. FIRST WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE

CEASE-FIRE AND WITHDRAWAL BY PALESTINIANS. BY WITHDRAWAL ISRAELIS REALLY MEANT WITHDRAWAL BEYOND LITANI. THE SECOND WAS THAT BORDER AREA AND SOUTH LEBANON SHOULD BE CONTROLLED EITHER BY LEBANESE OR UN TROOPS. I SAID THIS WAS ALSO MY UNDERSTANDING.

4. BOUTROS ASKED ABOUT THE SITUATION ALONG THE BORDER. I SAID THERE HAD BEEN A RESUMPTION OF HEAVY SHELLING FOR WHICH THE RESPONSIBILITY SEEMED TO REST WITH THE CHRISTIANS AND ISRAELIS MORE THAN WITH THE PALESTINIANS. WE HAD, HOWEVER, SENT STRONG PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO BOTH BEGIN AND ASSAD AND I HOPED THESE WOULD HAVE SOME EFFECT. THE SITUATION WAS DANGEROUS, NEVERTHELESS, AND I WAS CONCERNED BY THE FACT BACHIR GEMAYEL CONTINUED TO TALK ABOUT TAKING NAQOURA. BOUTROS SAID HE HAD GATHERED FROM THE LEBANESE ARMY COMMAND THAT THIS WAS THE REAL RISK AT PRESENT; I.E., THAT ISRAELIS AND LEBANESE CHRISTIANS WOULD ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE NAQOURA. HE ASKED WHAT THE PALESTINIAN REACTION WOULD BE. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW.

5. I ASKED WHEN HE THOUGHT THE LEBANESE WOULD HAVE A FORCE ABLE TO MOVE INTO THE BORDER AREAS. HE REFERRED TO A STATEMENT HE MADE YESTERDAY CARRIED BY THE PRESS TODAY THAT THE LEBANESE ARMY COULD MOVE IN ONLY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, I.E., WITHDRAWAL AND CEASE-FIRE. THESE CONDITIONS WERE DISCUSSED IN A MEETING YESTERDAY BETWEEN DETERRENT FORCES,

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LEBANESE ARMY AND PALESTINIANS. ANOTHER MEETING WAS TO BE HELD TODAY (AUGUST 17). HE HOPED THAT BY TOMORROW A DECISION WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON WHEN THEY COULD MOVE IN. IT WOULD OF COURSE DEPEND ON A PALESTINIAN COMMITMENT REGARDING CEASE-FIRE AND WITHDRAWAL. NATURE AND EXTENT OF WITHDRAWAL NOT YET DETERMINED.

6. I ASKED BOURTOS WHETHER HE WAS GOING TO BE ABLE TO MEET THE END OF AUGUST DEADLINE FOR A DRAFT PEACE TREATY. HE SAID HE WOULD LET ME KNOW IN A COUPLE OF DAYS.

7. I ASKED BOUTROS IF HE WAS INDEED PLANNING TO ATTEND UNGA IN SEPTEMBER AND HE SAID HE WAS. HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN OR FOR HOW LONG AND WAS CONSULTING WITH OTHER ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS IN THIS RESPECT. HE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE MET WITH KADDAM IN SHTAURA TOMORROW BUT THIS HAD HAD TO BE POSTPONED BECAUSE KADDAM APPARENTLY DECIDED TO TAKE A LITTLE VACATION SOMEWHERE.

8. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT DAMASCUS AND TEL AVIV.
PARKER
UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, BORDER CONTROLS, POLITICAL SITUATION, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE195364
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O TGMARTIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N770005-0037
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770852/aaaabrrx.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 56176b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 192563
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1574296
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS
TAGS: PSDC, PBOR, MOPS, LE, SY, IR, PLO, UN, (BUTRUS, FUVAD)
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/56176b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009